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TOWN OF ARLINGTON MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

June 13, 2011

Mr. Thomas Broderick
Acting Chief Engineer
MassDOT Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Project #604687
Reconstruction of Mass. Ave., Arlington

Dear Mr. Broderick,

At the request of MassDOT's Highway Division Project Manager, we are writing this letter to affirm the Town's commitment to advance the roadway reconstruction of Mass. Ave. in Arlington, from Pond Lane to the Cambridge city line.

The project underwent a conceptual design process that included 6 public meetings and 4 meetings in front of the Board of Selectmen. A Review Committee was appointed by the Town Manager which met 12 times and provided guidance to the engineers. The Town also met individually with representatives of those opposed to the plan in an effort to resolve differences. The plan has improved through this public process despite the continued opposition of some. Following the public meetings, the Town and its design consultant, Fay, Spofford & Thorndike (FST) evaluated the key issues raised by residents and refined the design based on the comments and information collected from the public.

The preferred concept has now advanced through the 25% Design phase, and a public hearing was held on April 12, 2011. The Public Hearing was well attended by those favoring and those opposing the project.

Massachusetts Avenue in East Arlington is in deteriorated condition. It is a very wide road (65' to 78' wide) due to trolley tracks that once ran down the middle of the street, and are now paved over. These wide unmarked lanes in both directions lead to chaotic

traffic flow. During the peak travel hours, 70-100 bikes per hour use Mass. Ave. The new design will improve safety and mobility for drivers, pedestrians, bike riders, and transit riders using the corridor. It is designed to meet the guidelines of the MassDOT Design Manual for accommodation of all users of this important roadway.

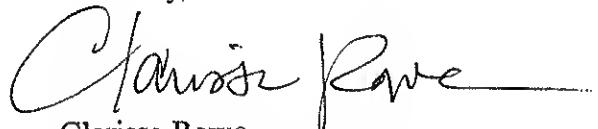
The Town recognizes that some residents expressed concerns about the project at the 25% Design Public Hearing and through written letters to MassDOT. Some residents are concerned about the way the lanes are being configured. But the Town, and our design engineers, believe that the data shows there is ample capacity to accommodate projected traffic, while providing major safety and mobility improvements for pedestrians and bike riders. The design includes 2 new bike lanes, 3 additional crosswalks, and 11 new curb extensions to accommodate walkers, bus riders, and bicyclists. This is in keeping with the State's design standards.

The Town supports the road design shown on the 25% Design Plans. The following departments and groups in Town have voiced their support for this plan:

- Arlington Board of Selectmen
- Town Manager
- Police and Fire Chiefs
- Transportation Advisory Committee
- Disabilities Commission

We respectfully request that the project be advanced to the 75% Design Phase. We believe the design will improve this important stretch of roadway connecting Boston, Cambridge, Arlington and Lexington. We appreciate your support to date, and look forward to working with you on its completion.

Sincerely,



Clarissa Rowe
Chair, Board of Selectmen

Cc: Pamela Stephenson, Federal Highway Division Administrator